

From: Richard Carlson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 8:47am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I oppose Florida not joining in the settlement with Microsoft. As a consumer I experience firsthand the "expense" of the breakup for purpose of creating "competition thereby lower costs to consumer" by the telephone company! That has not happened. I now pay \$15-\$20 more a month to a local phone company who charges me long-distance fees within my local area. I live in the Tampa area and to call friends, transact normal, everyday business, or call restaurants for reservations I pay long distance fees. My geographic area is similar to the Washington D.C area where you live in Virginia but call friends and businesses in Maryland and Washington D.C. The breakup of the "phone monopoly" did me no favors. Also while traveling it is impossible, from some phone companies, to reach your long-distance carrier and you end up paying \$3.00-\$6.00 per minute for a call. Every home computer owner struggles with keeping their system up--to-date with software and making "compatibility" even more dispersed and conflicted will certainly not be helpful and will cost more in the long run. I can only imagine what a breakup of Microsoft will do to the business community! Please encourage those involved in this decision to leave well enough alone. Barbara Carlson, Plant City, Florida